

Minutes of the Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Monday, July 29, 2009

Judge Davis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present:

Judge Mac Davis (Chair)	Dan Trawicki	Karl Held	Paul Geiszler
Jim Dwyer	Larry Nelson	Peter Schuler	Sam Benedict (<i>arrived at 9:10 a.m.</i>)
Joanne Huelsman	Brad Schimel	Kathy Madden	

Absent:

Marcia Jante	Dan Vrakas
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Also Present:

Rebecca Luczaj	Clara Daniels	Mike Giese	Betty Groenwold
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Introduction of New CJCC Member, Joanne Huelsman

Approve Minutes of June 29, 2009 Meeting

The minutes of June 29, 2009 were unanimously approved.

Review & Consider Motion to Approve Recommendations from Alcohol Workgroup

Davis said the Alcohol Workgroup was formed with a goal of looking at ways to sentence, supervise and deal with offenders for alcohol related offenses especially OWI. A handout titled *Sentencing Options for OWI Offenders* was distributed. Davis reviewed OWI sentencing options as outlined on the handout focusing on the new variations: ATC Lite, Restorative Justice Circles, and Day Report Center with a specialized OWI track. WCS is developing Restorative Justice Circles independently for first time OWI offenders to voluntarily attend. The Day Report Center, which has been operating for more than two years, would be expanded and offer a specialized track providing preplanned steps and programming for those convicted of OWI. Staff from WCS's pretrial monitoring would point out to sentencing judges the most appropriate supervision program for clients based on a pretrial risk/needs assessment and pretrial compliance.

Nelson asked how do the courts decide who is high/low risk? Davis said a lot of it is subjective and varies. Sometimes people convince the judges that after the shock of the arrest, they sought out treatment and they bring in proof. For some it may be their third OWI, six to eight years since their last one and they are able to identify a substantial explanation as to why they fell off the wagon. Nelson asked is sentencing at the discretion of the judges based on the information they receive? Luczaj said WCS staff uses a pretrial risk assessment tool and provides reports to the judges.

Held suggested the model used for ATC be used which excludes anyone with an assaultive history from the program. Davis said people charged with OWI in Waukesha County usually have few other charges.

Nelson asked if the programs would be modified if legislation changes? Davis said it is always subject to change.

Dwyer said Judge Davis should be commended with his development of ATC Lite. The CJCC was constantly criticized when it was established. The current recidivism rates are low but the Council will need to be at its strongest when there is a failure. Nothing is 100%. Everyone works together for a successful program. Schimel said it is a faulty premise when you have a case on the front page that that person would not have failed if they had just been given their full prison term. There is a shocking percentage of fifth time offenders reoffend shortly after they are released from prison.

MOTION: Dwyer moved, Held second, to approve the recommendations of the Alcohol Workgroup to pursue more options in addressing operating under the influence law violators, specifically including: Restorative Justice Cicles for first time offenders, Day Report Center expansion, Alcohol Treatment Court “Lite” and modification and utilization of the current pretrial program to advise courts of appropriate sentence options. Motion carried 10-0.

Discuss Strategic Planning Summary Report for Eventual Approval

Luczaj distributed a handout titled Preliminary Summary, Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Strategic Planning Session, May 18, 2009.

Huelsman said page five of the report indicates an overall goal is missing from the plan. Who said that a goal was missing and does the group agree? Davis said the way the planning session was organized did not lend itself well to a final overarching goal. The CJCC has a mission statement which somewhat states the goal. Most of the work at the planning session was done in groups and subgroups. Luczaj said the statement Huelsman is referencing was the facilitator’s opinion of what was missing. Planning session actions steps were discussed by the CJCC Executive Committee.

Held read through the list of action steps:

1. Develop an external communication plan
2. Establish an Outcomes and Evaluation Subcommittee of the CJCC
3. Develop a formal process of orientation/training for new members of the CJCC
4. Create an online discussion group/forum
5. Expand Alcohol treatment Court to include 2nd OWI offenders
6. Expand use of programs by judges in sentencing and DOC in conditions of probation
7. Develop a network of volunteers to compensate for reduced funding or program expansion
8. Expand use/capacity of Victim Impact Panel
9. Create a cross-system funding workgroup of the CJCC.

Schuler said relative to overarching goals, the mission statement if dissected and elaborated on does that and the CJCC has verbally done that. The mission statement is reviewed every year and helps to establish the overarching goals. Overarching goals are hard to prioritize because they fluctuate depending on the needs in the system. Goals and objectives will have to be identified for the 2010 budget, will change over time and should be tied to initiatives. Some of the action steps are already being taken care of.

Davis said the CJCC Executive Committee is satisfied with the summary. He recommended putting this on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion and consideration. In the mean time, Luczaj will email the action steps to all members.

Future Agenda Item

2009 CJCC Strategic Planning Recommended Action Steps

Update on WCTC Jail ABE/GED Program

Nordberg said this was a good year for the program and she is pleased with the outcomes and results. Fewer students were served (189 total) than in previous years because of shortened jail sentences. Adult Basic Education services were provided to those who tested with grade levels between first and eighth grades and were not ready to go for a GED. Career exploration was also provided which included such topics as how to find a job and perform in interviews. Eighty students participated in counseling and case management. The book club was attended by 27 inmates. Eighty-one percent of participants improved their academic literacy skills.

Trawicki said he attended the Recognition Ceremony on April 30 which recognized those who have completed different levels of educational programs including GEDs, workshops and employability skills classes. Personally he can be a naysayer with the programs but he was impressed by the students' participation and dedication. He will continue to support these programs because they go to the core of what we try to do. Training and jobs will help keep people from coming back to the jail.

Nelson asked where does the money for this program come from? Nordberg said the total budget is approximately \$97K with funding coming from WCTC and Waukesha County. The county usually provides \$45K in funding. The program is \$27K short in 2010 partially due to the loss of federal and Department of Labor funding which had been received in prior years. Last year the WCTC Foundation board raised \$23,500 to fill the budget gap. She would like to look for funding for an ESL program. Since it is a new program, it may be easier to find grant funding.

Benedict arrived at 9:10 am.

Nelson asked if Nordberg had considered partnering with La Casa? Nordberg said WCTC partners a lot with La Casa. They are part of the Cognitive Restructuring Program associated with the WIRED Grant.

Luczaj asked if the WCTC Foundation would be able to fill the \$27K shortfall again? Nordberg said she is not sure if they will take it on a second year. Luczaj asked if services will have to be reduced? Nordberg said at this point she has not been directed to reduce services.

Davis asked what can the program do to follow up with participants? Nordberg said there is not any funding to do follow up. It is challenging with this population to do follow up since they frequently change addresses and phone numbers. Giese said the jail has a large population. This program keeps a large number of inmates active and involved in positive pursuits. Bored inmates with nothing to do can create negative behavior. We hope participants will continue the behavior when they are released. Nordberg said WCTC has a wonderful partnership with the jail. It is a wonderful opportunity. During the previous summer, she had the opportunity to do GED testing. She was surprised at the number of perfect scores. It is phenomenal.

Review & Consider Motion to Approve 2010 CJCC Budget Recommendations

Schuler explained Waukesha County's budget process and timeline.

CJCC Budget Reviewed by	Date
HHS Board	July 23
County Executive	August 14
HHS Committee	October 1-2
Finance Committee	October 14

Dwyer said county board supervisors and/or county board committees may change the budget by amendment. Once the budget is approved by the county board it goes to the county executive. Any vetoes go back to the county board for final review.

Luczaj distributed a handout titled 2010 CJCC Budget Recommendations. Schuler said operating expenses include the cost of contract services. Luczaj reviewed the CJCC budget as outlined in the handout. She said a 2% increase is recommended for all contracted programs. There may be changes to the OAR program due to legislative changes. Whether or not it stays in the budget depends on if we can make the pilot work with the municipalities. If there are not enough referrals, recommendations will be made to move the money into the Intoxicated Driver Program.

Luczaj said there are a few grants pending that could change the budget. Programs will begin October 1, 2009 if the Enhancement Grant for \$219,920 (for a two-year period) and the SAMHSA Grant for \$816,506 (for a three year period) are received. Word was received that a Byrne Grant for \$18,619 will be awarded to several agencies in Waukesha County. Once written notice is received an ordinance will be written. Luczaj said an RFP will be released next week for the following programs: Pretrial Screening, Day Report Center, ATC and Pretrial Supervision. The OAR Program was removed from the RFP due to changes in legislation which has created program uncertainty. Luczaj estimated three providers will submit proposals. Schuler said the Workforce Development Center will not be getting funding through Senator Kohl's office for the Facilitated Employment Program for Offenders. An application was submitted for Community Development Block Grant funding.

Next CJCC Meeting:

September 30, 2009 @ 8:30 am, Room C179

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.